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Art therapy helps PTSD sufferers

Coming home from a deployment should bring happiness, but for soldiers suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, returning to their previous lives can be a challenge.

The River Community Wellness Program at River Hospital in Alexandria Bay, NY, helps soldiers work through their emotions and art therapy is one of the methods. Since opening its doors in February 2013, more than 75 soldiers have transitioned through the program, which combines art therapy with other therapeutic techniques.

Learn more at www.wnnytv.com.
— From the Global Alliance for Arts and Healthcare

MONTANA CIRCLE OF AMERICAN MASTERS

Two traditional artists added to MCAM roster

The Montana Arts Council recently added to Montana's Circle of American Masters (MCAM) in the Visual Folk and Traditional Arts by endorsing two artists who will join the roll call of other Montana folk and traditional artists whom the program has honored. Through their connections to the physical and social landscapes, these artists reflect what it means to be Montanan.

Rick Dunkerley, Lincoln

Master bladesmith Rick Dunkerley's passion for knives began as a child when his father gave him a knife from Spain. An avid hunter and fisherman who outfits in the Scapegoat Wilderness, Dunkerley found that his interest in the outdoors and his fascination with knives came together when he moved to Montana in 1985.

He had been making stainless steel hunting and utility knives, but became especially fascinated with crafting one-of-a-kind mosaic Damascus folding knives, which have become his specialty.

Dunkerley has attained the American Bladesmith Society Mastersmith rating, in addition to the Italian Knifemakers rating of Maestro. He shares the beauty and history of this art by attending shows nationally and internationally, speaking to bladesmith groups, and teaching local high school students.

He has hosted hammer-ins, has written about blade-making in several books, and is known as a person who makes time to help anyone interested in the art.



Fancy hunting knife by Rick Dunkerley
(Photo by Eric Eggle)

Marilyn Evans, Trego

Basketmaker Marilyn Evans arrived in Montana in 1979. She immediately recognized that living here required inventiveness and tenacity.

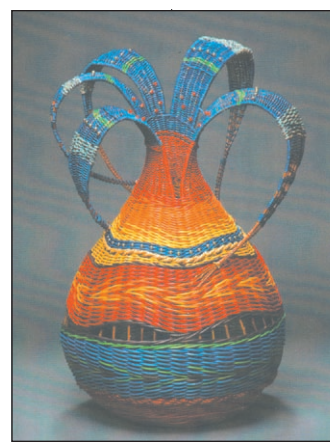
In her childhood, where she formed her love of fiber, she was taught that a person can do anything. Once in Montana, she began weaving baskets, using traditional wicker weaving as the foundation.

She then began to experiment with dyes to obtain the rich, brightly colored materials that she is known for in her work. With her

partner in Montana Blue Heron, she has practiced the craft, developing a fine contemporary art form from the traditional wicker weaves.

Evans, who is self-taught, understands how the folk and traditional arts are learned outside of the formal classroom. She has visited grade school classes in her area and has demonstrated her skills around the community and across the nation at such shows and prestigious venues as the

Fort Worth Arts Festival, the Lincoln Center in New York City, and the Western Design Conference in Jackson, WY.



Basket by Marilyn Evans

The Montana Circle of American Masters honors Montana's rich heritage and showcases the present day vitality of the folk arts. These artists will join other artists endorsed by the Council to be honored in a ceremony at the State Capitol on Friday, April 25.

In addition to the ceremony, artists designated as MCAM artists can use the MCAM label on their work. They will have the opportunity to teach their art through demonstrations and

workshops and to share their knowledge and work in a number of ways, including on the MAC website.

In addition to acknowledgement through interviews, they can gain exposure in promotional and educational venues; and, as funding allows, their work will be photographically recorded.

For inclusion in this program, made possible initially with funding from a National Endowment for the Arts initiative, an individual must be a practicing visual folk artist. Montanans are encouraged to visit the MAC website (www.art.mt.gov), to check MCAM eligibility requirements and download the guidelines and nomination form.

Recommendations and supporting information are gathered year round, and there is no application deadline. When the nomination form is completed, it is submitted for review, with the Montana Arts Council acting on that recommendation.

For more information about the program or for help in the nomination process, contact Folk Arts and Market Development Specialist Cindy Kittredge, at 406-468-4078 or ckittredge@mt.gov.

Montana artists well represented in Watermedia 2013

By Michele Beck

Watermedia 2013, the annual national juried exhibit hosted by the Montana Watercolor Society (MTWS), was held Oct. 1-31 at the Bigfork Museum of Art and History. Juror Sue Archer selected 50 paintings from among 202 entries, and chose prizewinners from among the various styles and subject matter presented, with the exception of the President's Award, which was chosen by MTWS President Penny Strommen.

During Archer's gallery talk on Friday evening, Oct. 4, she outlined the design of the prize-winning paintings and then described visual elements used in each painting and why they were selected. She also stayed after her talk and discussed strengths of paintings with numerous artists.

Yuri Ozaki of Huntsville, AL, received the \$1,000 Gold Award and Medallion for "Large Cinnamon Tree 2." Archer said she chose Ozaki's painting because of the artist's technique and overall approach to the subject



"History Upon His Face" by Kalispell artist Carol McSweeney won the Bronze Award and Medallion at Watermedia 2013 in Bigfork.

matter. She praised the work as having a definite "feeling," as well as superb design – totally different from her own graphic style of painting.

Her message was consistent with that of other art instructors and jurors, who consistently encourage artists to find their own style and way to express their story. She also reminded artists not to paint for the juror, noting that she was harder and more critical of a particular painting than the others because it was done in her style.

Several years ago, nationally known watercolorist Don Andrews gave a clue about painting the

"purple cow" when trying to get juried into shows. After reviewing 100 landscapes and 100 florals, along comes something really different and the juror looks up and says, "Wow!" But when it comes time for placing awards, the painting will still have to measure

up to elements of design and composition.

Those who took Archer's four-day workshop described her instruction on design and composition as outstanding and informational.

Ninety-six artists from 25 states entered 202 paintings in this year's show. The 50 paintings selected for the exhibit came from artists in 19 states, and 35 were by members of the MTWS.

Ozaki took the top prize; Illinois artist Ken Call received the \$750 Silver Award for "Maddie"; and Carol McSweeney of Kalispell claimed the \$600 Bronze Award for "History Upon His Face."

Other Montana award winners are:

- Kim Shirley of Whitefish, \$500 MTWS Founders' Award for "Blue on Black";
- Peggy Woods of Victor, \$500 Nancy Beelman Award for "Splash of Sun";
- Mona Rose of Helena, \$500 MTWS President's Award for "Birds of a Feather"; and
- Joanne Simpson of Polson, \$100 MTWS Excellence Award for "Center of the World."

For more images of the 2013 winners and information about 2014 Watermedia check out the MTWS website at www.montana-watercoloristsociety.org.

Silver Park to spend \$123,000 on sculptures

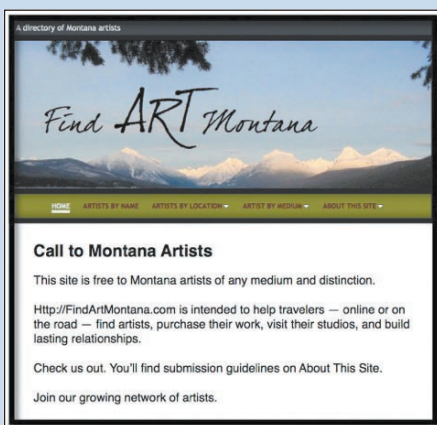
Silver Park is coming to life in downtown Missoula. After a decade, the collaborative plan for 15 acres along the Clark Fork River, once part of the biggest industrial complex in Missoula, is fulfilling its promise to be a space for outdoor enthusiasts and artists alike.

The Silver Foundation has stepped forward to partner with the Missoula Public Art Committee, a volunteer assembly of business, cultural and civic leaders, to finish the recreational space with commissioned sculptures that celebrate the renewal of the "old mill site" with its important industrial past.

The site was originally owned by the Silver family, which operated businesses in Missoula for nearly 70 years, and then by the F. Morris and Helen Silver Foundation.

According to Carolyn Montgomery, executive director of the Morris and Helen Silver Foundation, "The Foundation is providing a combined total of \$90,000 in grants to celebrate with artwork the Silver Family legacy of entrepreneurship and commitment to the progressive values of Missoula." says Montgomery.

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Find Art website

The artist directory, www.findartmontana.com, is designed specifically to help visitors locate artists, studios and art as they travel in the state and enjoy the local culture. It's easy to participate by filling out the Artist Information Form located on the About Us page. Take a few moments to complete, attach it to an email, and allow the site to promote your work.